

Rushville, Ill.

April 30, 1907

Miss Mary C. Erwin;

My Dear Friend and Cousin;

In my judgement there is no question of its importance so much neglected by people generally as the subject of "Family Records", and when I meet with a person who appears to show a desire to preserve and keep up their family Record I am much inclined to encourage and help them in the effort. So as the weather today is to damp and chilly for me to work outside I have concluded to give you items relating to our branch of the Erwin family as I have them from my Grandfather, David Erwin, and his sons and daughters.

In the first five pages of the life of Washington Irving you will find the early traditions of our branch of the Erwin family fully confirmed. To-wit; that we are of Scotch-Irish descent and at an early day many of them were driven by the persecution, of the old church to the north of Ireland, from the North for Scotland and its islands and by closely observing the verbal and written history that among them were those who spelled their names in the same variety of ways as those that were left behind them, (Irwin Irvin Erwin Ervin Ervine etc..)

The written history of our branch of the Erwin family begins with David Erwin. The tradition is that two brothers named Erwin imigrated from the north of Ireland about the year 1740 some way 1730 both may be true for sometime ago I clipped an article from a New Jersey newspaper an article giving a history of Cornelius Board settled in \_\_\_\_\_ county, New Jersey in 1730 and manufactured the first cut nails ever made in the States. A number of years ago I visited Aunt Betsey Erwin Seeley then visiting her daughter Catherine (Mrs. Benj. L. Smith) at Princeton, Ill. and one day I asked Aunt Betsey where my father got his first name Cornelius. After some little reflection she said, "Why, your father got it from Cornelius Board who was an own cousin of my father David Erwin."

No, Sarah Board married David's father Walter.

So you see one time a man of the name of Board married an Erwin woman and come to America before 1740. David Erwin was born in Neward New Jersey May 18, 1758, and married Miss Catherine Munson of the same city and state March 22, 1780. Catherine Munson was born Dec. 11, 1761. To them were born ten children; Polly March 11, 1781, Walter Spet. 15, 1782, Moses M. Dec. 16, 1783, Alexander Bryant June 15, 1787, Cornelius Matthew July 25, 1788, Matilda March 6, 1790, Sarah Aug. 20, 1792, Betsey June 25 1795, Pruden Allen Oct. 16, 1791, Nancy Nov. 24, 1799.

The first three of the above were born in Newark, N.J. and the other were born in Fair Haven Rutland Co. Vermont to which place Grandfather and his family moved as I understand

in 1785. His family then consisted of himself, wife and Mother, and two sisters Susan and Nancy. The last three and his mother died in Fair Haven

In 1803 or 4, Grandfather moved to Franklin Co. N.Y. where most of his children married and raised families and then these scattered far and wide mostly to the western states.

David Erwin and three of his sons participated in the battle of Plattsburg in the war of 1812 under circumstances which I may relate hereafter, other duties compelling me to postpone this to a later period.

With much love from us all to your Grandparents and all others interested.

I am very truly yours,  
Lewis D. Erwin.

Letter No. I.

Rushville, Illinois  
April 29, 1907.

Miss Mary Erwin  
My Dear Friend:

Your letter of the 10th was duly received asking certain information concerning our Erwin family, and would have been answered before now. But I have been quite busy making garden and attending to some matters relating to my church duties, that I have not been able to reach that subject.

Your Grandfather, James A. Erwin, is the son of Prudential Allen Erwin, the son of David Erwin, who served in Captain Kitchel's Company of the New Jersey troops of the Revolutionary War of 1776. His name also appears on a record of the preceding of a commission which met May 7, 1778 to classify different companies.

He was with Gen. Washington when he re-crossed the Delaware River and captured Trenton, on Christmas night 1776.

For information apply to  
Record and Pension Office  
War Department, Washington, D. C.

Lewis D. Erwin.